

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 FEA-01

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R 011715Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2473
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2807
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 11778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, CA, EEC
SUBJECT: CANADA-EURATOM NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH DECEMBER 1 FOR CANADIAN MISSION OFFICERS, WE ASKED FOR RUNDOWN ON STATUS OF CANADIAN TALKS WITH EC OVER BILATERAL NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. CANADIANS RECALLED THAT, FOLLOWING FUROR CREATED BY INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, GOC HAD PROCEEDED TO A RENEGOTIATION WITH EURATOM OF 1959 AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO BRING SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS IN LINE WITH IAEA REQUIREMENTS. SINCE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN 1974, CANADIANS HAVE EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR REACHING NEW AGREEMENT AT LEAST TWICE. HOWEVER, THEY TOLD US THAT CURRENT DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR IS FINAL AND THAT GOC UNLIKELY TO RECONSIDER IF NEW AGREEMENT NOT REACHED BY THEN.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION SOURCES, NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD TAKE FORM OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS (OR NOTES). THEY WOULD REQUIRE THAT EURATOM SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE NO LESS TRINGENT THAN THOSE REQUIRED BY IAEA. FOR NON-NPT SIGNATORIES (FRANCE), LETTERS WOULD STATE, IN EFFECT, THAT THOSE COUNTRIES AGREE NOW TO AGREE LATER TO A SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION CONFORMING TO IAEA PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES. EFFECT OF THIS FORMULA
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WOULD BE TO PUT OFF UNTIL LATER THE WORKING OUT OF DETAILED

ARRANGEMENTS ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE.

3. AS WITH IAEA-EURATOM VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, FRANCE IS ONCE AGAIN THE BOTTLENECK (FOR, WE UNDERSTAND, ESSENTIALLY THE SAME REASONS). THE TEXTS OF THE LETTERS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION AND ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CONSIDERED AGAIN BY THE COUNCIL'S SUB-GROUP ON ATOMIC QUESTIONS THIS WEEK (PRESUMABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GROUP'S RENEWED EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE EURATOM-IAEA IMPASSE).

4. COMMENT: IF THE LARGER ISSUE OF EURATOM-IAEA CAN BE RESOLVED, THE EC-CANADIAN AGREEMENT SHOULD ALSO GO THROUGH. HOWEVER, IF FRANCE REMAINS ADAMANT, IT WOULD SEEM INEVITABLE THAT CANADA WOULD FACE THE SAME POTENTIAL PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS ITS NPT OBLIGATIONS AS WE MAY. CANADIAN MISSION HERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THIS ASPECT YET, CONCENTRATING AS IT HAS ON THE EC-CANADA BILATERAL RENEGOTIATION. HINTON

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